

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30871

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FT, FR

SUBJECT: FURTHER QUAI THINKING ON TFAI

REF: (A) PARIS 30630 (B) PARIS 26908 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. DURING DISCUSSION LARGELY DEVOTED TO OTHER SUBJECTS, CHAUVET OF QUAI AFRICAN BUREAU TOLD US FRENCH ARE CONTINUING WITH THEIR SOUNDINGS ON FUTURE GUARANTEES FOR AN INDEPENDENT TFAI. BOTH YEMENS HAVE INDICATED THEIR READINESS TO AGREE TO A SYSTEM OF GUARANTEES. THE BIG PROBLEM REMAINS THE SOMALIS AND THEIR SOVIET FRIENDS. THE QUAI HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT AT PRESENT THE USSR IS ADVISING SOMALIA TO BE INTRANSIGENT IN DEALING WITH ALI AREF. "SINCE THE SOMALI ARMY COULD
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NOT MOVE WITHOUT SOVIET SUPPORT," THE FRENCH WOULD LIKE

TO SPEAK WITH THE SOVIETS ABOUT THE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, THE QUAI DOES NOT THINK THE MOMENT IS OPPORTUNE. IF SOMALIA CONTINUES TO SHOW NO INTEREST IN SIGNING A NON-AGGRESSION AGREEMENT THE QUAI IS CONSIDERING WHETHER TO APPROACH THE USSR THROUGH A THIRD PARTY RATHER THAN DIRECTLY. THE ARAB LEAGUE, OR ONE OF ITS MEMBERS LIKE IRAQ, ARE POSSIBLE CANDIDATES.

2. CHAUVET SAID THAT WITH MESSMER'S UNEXPECTED (AND MORE FAR-REACHING THAN QUAI) SUPPORT (REF A), THERE IS ESSENTIAL AGREEMENT WITHIN THE GOF ON TFAI INDEPENDENCE BUT NOT ON WHETHER TO MAINTAIN A BASE AT DJIBOUTI. THE MILITARY WOULD LIKE TO STAY ON BECAUSE OF FRENCH STRATEGIC INTEREST IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, BUT THEY (AND THE QUAI) WONDER IF IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE IF THAT MEANT EMULATING THE BRITISH IN CYPRUS AND SERVING AS A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE BETWEEN THE TERRITORY'S TWO RIVAL ETHNIC GROUPS.

3. CHAUVET ASSERTED THAT THIS KIND OF CONTINGENCY THINKING HAS NOT GONE HIGHER THAN THE QUAI AFRICAN BUREAU AND THAT WERE SUCH PLANNING TO BEGIN TO TAKE SUBSTANCE, THE U.S.' GIVEN ITS SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE REGION, ESPECIALLY IN ETHIOPIA, WOULD BE FULLY CONSULTED AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE FRENCH UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THEIR PULL-OUT ON FUTURE STABILITY IN THE HORN. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE A MAJOR AGENDA ITEM FOR THE NEXT FRANCO-U.S. BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON AFRICA WHICH, THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, SHOULD BE HELD IN WASHINGTON IN JANUARY 1976 IF THE SIX-MONTH INTERVAL BETWEEN SUCH GATHERINGS IS REINSTITUTED. WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER EXTENDING AN EARLY INVITATION TO QUAI AFRICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR GEORGY AND HIS COLLEAGUES AND, MEANWHILE, PROVIDE US WITH ANY THOUGHTS WHICH MIGHT USEFULLY BE CONVEYED TO THE QUAI.

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